(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the demand in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Koyali Refinery is the main source of supply of Bitumen to Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Bitumen supplies to Gujarat are on ex-MI basis, i.e., the customer arranges the transportation and the oil companies are loading the trucks reporting at the supply point. Accordingly, the oil companies are making supplies as per the number of State Government trucks reporting for upliftment of Bitumen at the refinery.

(d) The oil companies have been advised to augment Bitumen supplies to the State of Gujarat subject to upliftment by the State through their nominated tank trucks.

Coal Bed Methane Exploration

1780. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status and future plans of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration in West Bengal; and

(b) the action plan for petroleum exploration in Bengal basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Two blocks, viz. (i) Raniganj (Northern Part) & (ii) Ranigang (Eastern Part) in the Raniganj Coal field of West Bengal have been identified for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Exploration and Exploitation and are proposed to be included in the first round of bidding for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration & exploitation.

In addition to above ONGC has also acquired 80 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled 2 R & D wells in Durgapur Depression.

(b) ONGC has appointed an expert to evaluate Bengal Basin. Expert recommended for additional seismic data acquisition and review and reinterpretation of existing data and also suggested for a 3 year drilling pause. These recommendations are at various stages of implementation.

After evaluation of the above results, further plan of exploration will be formulated.

Besides above, 3 blocks in Bengal offshore (including NEC) and 2 in Bengal onland basin have been identified for offer in the first round of NELP to be announced in the near future.

Demand of Gujarat Government for revision of Royalty on Petroleum Products

1781. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had recently fixed the rates of royalty on crude oil on ad-hoc basis;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any memorandum for fixation of royalty on crude oil/natural gas to Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand for revision of royalty for the years 1993-94 and 1995-96 and for fixation of royalty for 1996-97 and for the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by Government thereon and communicated to the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) For the period 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1996, an 'on

account' payment @ Rs. 528/- per metric tonne towards royalty on crude oil was made. This 'on account' rate of royalty has been increased to Rs. 578/- per metric tonne with effect from 1.4.1996. These provisional rates are subject to adjustment on notification of final rate of royalty to be notified on receipt of audited figures of cost of production of crude oil from Comptroller & Auditor General. Government of Gujarat has requested to fix the final rate of royalty on crude oil for the block period 1993—96 and for the block period 1996—99.

(e) Royalty in respect of mineral oil (defined as including Petroleum & Natural Gas) is governed by the provisions of Oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959. C&AG has been requested to expedite the audit of the cost of production figures for notifying the final rate of royalty early.

दरभंगा (बिहार) में पेट्रोल पम्प और गैस एजेंसियां

1782. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार वर्ष 1998-99 में दरभंगा (बिहार) में पेट्रोल पम्प और गैस एजेंसिया खोलने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार बेनीपुर, दरभंगा (बिहार) में भी कोई गैस एजेंसी खोलने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) और (ख) जिला दरभंगा (बिहार) के लिए पिछली विपणन योजनाओं से लंबित स्थानों के अलावा 1996—98 की खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र और एल पी जी विपणन योजना में निम्नलिखित एक खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र डीलरशिप और दो एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपों को शामिल कर लिया गया है:

खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र	:	शंकर-रोहर चौक
एल पी जी	:	रड़ी
	:	जाले

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) और (ङ) एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपें विभिन्न स्थानों पर खोली जाती हैं, बशर्ते वह स्थान व्यवहार्यता और आर्थिक साध्यता मानकों को पूरा करता है। वर्तमान में जिला दरभंगा (बिहार) में बेनीपुर में एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप स्थापित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है। तथापि, बेनीपुर, जिला दरभंगा में एक खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र खोला जा रहा है।

विदेशों में तेल-शोधन

1783. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार विदेशों में तेल शोधन करने की किसी योजना पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार इस संबंध में कोई नीतिगत निर्णय लेकर इस योजना पर कब तक कार्य करना प्रारंभ कर देगी?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) (क) जी नहीं। वर्तमान में ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Vasudevan committee on LPG Safety

1784. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had accepted the recommendations of Vasudevan Committee on LPG safety and national oil companies were asked to take necessary action in this regard;

(b) whether the Committee had recommended banning the use of contract labour in various operations, including